

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS 2007-2008

SPECIES	SEASON	LIMIT
MOURNING DOVE		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Sept. 1 – Sept. 29 Oct. 16 – Oct. 27 Dec. 15 – Jan. 12	12 (24 in possession)
KING & CLAPPER RAILS		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	10 (singly or in aggregate of the two species) 20 in possession
SORA & VIRGINIA RAILS		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	25 (singly or in aggregate of the two species) 25 in possession
WOODCOCK		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Nov. 19 – Dec. 8 Dec. 20 – Dec. 29	3 (6 in possession)
COMMON SNIPE		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Nov. 19 – Dec. 8 Dec. 20 – Dec. 29	8 (16 in possession)
MOORHENS & GALLINULES		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	15 (30 in possession)
CROWS		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	June 28 – Mar. 29 (Thurs., Fri., & Sat. only)	No Limit
SEADUCKS*		
<u>Hours:</u> ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	Sept. 25 – Jan. 26	7 (14 in possession in addition to regular duck limits) Limit – 4 scoters daily** 8 in possession

*Scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks may be taken not less than 800 yards (1/2 mile) seaward from the Delaware Bay shore or Atlantic Ocean shore beginning at an east-west line between Port Mahon and the Elbow Cross Navigation Light, south to the Delaware-Maryland line. The shooting of crippled sea ducks from a motorboat under power will be permitted in the designated sea duck hunting area.

**The daily limit of 7 sea ducks shall include no more than 4 scoters; 8 in possession.



DUCKS COOTS, AND MERGANSERS NOTES:

OPEN SEASON	BASIC DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER OPENING DAY
Oct. 26 – Nov. 6 Nov. 19 – Dec. 1 Dec. 14 – Jan. 26	6	12

Special Youth Hunt (age 12-15) Oct. 20
(Includes two Canada Geese/Day)

HARLEQUIN: Season Closed
EARLY TEAL: See information box on inside pages

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

The daily limit of 6 ducks (excepting mergansers), may include: 2 scaup; 1 black duck; 4 mallards, including no more than 2 hen mallards; 1 pintail; 2 wood ducks; 2 redheads; 1 mottled duck; 1 fulvous whistling-duck; 2 canvasback; 4 scoters. The possession limit is 2 times the daily limit.

	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
COOTS	15	30
MERGANSERS	5	10

(of which, 2 daily and 4 in possession may be hooded mergansers)

<u>GEESE AND BRANT</u>	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
CANADA GEESE (RESIDENT)	Sept. 1 – Sept. 15	15	30
CANADA GEESE (MIGRATORY)	Nov. 19 – Dec. 1 Dec. 14 – Jan. 21	2	4
BRANT	Dec. 5 – Jan. 31	2	4
SNOW GEESE (STATEWIDE)	Oct. 15 – Nov. 8 Nov. 19 – Jan 26 Jan. 28 – Mar. 10*	15	No Limit
SNOW GEESE (BOMBAY HOOK)**	Oct. 8 – Jan. 21 Feb. 8 – Mar. 5	15	No Limit

*Hunting ONLY allowed Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sat. during this split
**Refuge open Mon., Wed., and Fri. with authorization of refuge manager.

SHOOTING HOURS:

Hours for hunting waterfowl are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset **EXCEPT** for the Resident Canada Goose Season when hunting hours are extended until ½ hour **after** sunset.

NEW FOR 2007-2008!

- Daily start time for the first Mourning Dove season has been changed from noon to ½ hour **before** sunrise
- Shooting hours for the Resident Canada Goose Season have been expanded to ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour **after** sunset
- Hunters using state-built blinds on Wildlife Management Areas are required to pay a \$10 day-use permit fee per blind. Permits can be purchased at license agent locations or from the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 89 Kings Hwy, Dover, DE. **PERMITS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT LOTTERY STATIONS!**

EARLY TEAL SEASON

OPEN SEASON* BAG POSSESSION SHOOTING HOURS**
Sept. 20 – Sept. 29 4 8 ½ hour before sunrise – 10:00 a.m.

*Limited geographic area open: - coastal areas from south of the C&D Canal to Lewes east of Rts. 13, 113/113A & 1

**Any combination of blue-winged and/or green-winged teal totaling 4 birds
Limited public lands open. Call the Division for details: (302) 739-9912.

THE HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM – H.I.P

If you hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, doves, woodcock, rails, moorhens, snipe, and coots) in Delaware during the 2007-2008 season **YOU MUST HAVE A H.I.P. PERMIT.** To obtain a permit, you may register by phone, toll free at 1-877-DELAHIP, or online at **<http://www.dehip.com>**

THIS PERMIT IS FREE. Once you have your H.I.P. number you must write it in the space provided on your hunting license. You must get a new H.I.P. number **each year** which runs from July 1 – June 30.

MUTE SWANS

Mute swans are nonnative & **not protected** under State or U.S. Law. Hunters may harvest Mute swans and they will not count as part of the daily bag.

Mute swans have an **ORANGE BILL WITH A BLACK FLESHY KNOB ON TOP AT THE FEATHER LINE.** Mute swans **DO NOT FEED IN FIELDS** and will only be encountered **IN WETLANDS.**

NOTE! Native **Tundra swans** are **protected**, have a **black bill**, and **feed in fields.**

WATERFOWL FORECAST

DUCKS

The outlook for the 2007-2008 duck season is fairly good. Breeding habitat conditions were the same or slightly improved over last year. Breeding populations for most duck species increased in 2007, and were 14% higher than last year and 24% above the long term average. The fall flight is predicted to be similar to that of 2006.

GEESE AND BRANT

In the eastern Canadian arctic, a cold spring delayed nesting and resulted in decreased goose production. However, subarctic areas of Canada and Alaska had favorable nesting conditions. The breeding population index for AP Canada geese was 195,000, up from 160,000 in 2006. The 2007 fall-flight is expected to be similar to the one observed in 2006.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

WHAT DELAWARE WATERFOWL HUNTERS SHOULD KNOW

Avian influenza (AI) is an infectious disease, primarily of birds. In 2005 and 2006, a Highly Pathogenic (HP) H5N1 strain of AI spread from domestic poultry to wild bird populations in regions of Asia, Africa, and Europe. There is concern this strain could be carried to North America by migratory birds, including waterfowl. So far, the Highly Pathogenic strain has not shown up in North America, and it is uncertain what role wild birds will have in its spread. To date, cases of human infection from wild birds have been extremely rare and none have been reported from handling live, wild birds or hunter-killed birds. However, direct transmission from wild birds to humans is a possibility. Hunters should be aware of and educated about AI HP H5N1, but not overly concerned about it at present.

In 2006-2007, as part of a national AI surveillance program, Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) sampled over 2500 waterfowl and shorebirds in Delaware for AI. No Highly Pathogenic strains of AI have been detected. DFW personnel will again be conducting field examinations of hunter-killed birds during this year's waterfowl season. Hunters will be asked for permission to examine their harvested birds and a fecal swab will be collected from each bird. The bird will then be returned to the hunter for consumption or mounting. Hunters are advised not to handle any obviously sick or dead birds found while hunting and to report any groups of sick or dead birds to the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (302) 739-9912.

TO REPORT BANDED WATERFOWL

CALL 1-800-327-BAND

OR VISIT: www.reportband.gov